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MODERN CHINESE COPPER COINS



H. A. RAMSDEN, F. R. N. S.

1911

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MODERN CHINESE COPPER COINS

BY

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REPRINTED FROM THE NUMISMATIST

THE NUMISMATIST PRESS
WORCESTER, MASS.
1911

a Dollar" (圓) so distinct from the tael (兩) and mace and candareens hitherto used on the silver provincial issues, with the possible exception of the Pei Yang Arsenal series.

It seems, nevertheless, that the introduction of a new value was too much of an innovation and the old monetary unit of cash, or lowest coin used,—since it was a desire for "cash" that caused these to be struck—induced the other mints to issue multiples of the cash denominations.

Anyhow, it is worth remarking that:

(*a*) The minting of Kwang Tung "cents" was not continued for any great length of time, if the only existing variety met with is a proof that only one set of dies were used;

(*b*) The one "cent" denomination piece is not so frequently met with as the ten "cash" pieces, of which, on the other hand, many varieties are found, which proves that they were issued for some length of time and that various sets of dies were employed; and

(*c*) No other province has so far issued coins with the denomination of one "cent".

PRODUCTION.

Statistics in China, or where China is concerned, are in most cases purely guesswork, the data as regards the output of these coins being no exception, but it is well known that the people of China are voracious in their consumption of cash. That they have increased greatly in numbers of late years, is at once apparent when we compare the various issues found in circulation a few years back to the many different kinds met with to-day. A Shanghai correspondent to the London *Times* above quoted estimated the output in 1904 at 1,750,000,000 pieces, 4½ per capita, or about two cents U. S. currency, a head for the whole of the Empire of China, and he considered that the total output to the end of 1905 would not exceed 6,000,000,000 pieces.

The report on the trade of China for 1905, however, estimated that 10,000,000,000 were issued up to the end of 1905, which estimate is probably nearer the mark.

COMPOSITION.

Specimens are commonly met with in yellow brass, as well as of the commoner copper compositions. The former, the issue of which was apparently limited, contains 80 per cent. of copper and 20 per cent. of spelter.

In the copper coins, while their workmanship and design differ somewhat, as will be seen later on, the intrinsic value is fairly uniform. The ten-cash pieces, which comprise the majority of the values in circulation, contain about 95 per cent. of pure copper and the weight may average between 112 to 115 grains. By actual assay they have been found to contain 7.25 grammes of pure copper.

DENOMINATIONS:

The different values of the modern provincial series in my own collection comprise the following denominations:

20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cash pieces.

In the Regular Series, the 20 cash pieces are limited to seven provinces. In that of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo, I can muster some three different: one for general circulation and the others for local uses. It will be noticed, however, that these are repetitions of the Regular Series; that is to say, that the Tai Ching Ti Kuo 20 cash pieces are counterstamped only for those provinces which, in the regular course, have issued pieces of this denomination.

The 10 cash pieces of the Regular Series have been minted for provincial use only, with the probable exception of the F. K. (Foo Kien) Custom House issue. They are common to most provinces, which name they bear. In the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, on the other hand, besides those countermarked for provincial use, there are also to be found others for local circulation in districts or cities, such as Nanking, etc.

The Regular Series has issues of the 5 cash pieces for three provinces, the number being the same in the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, but they aggregate six different, as the provinces are distinct in the two series.

It may be not out of place to here call attention to a peculiarity in some of the cash pieces for Chin Kiang and Kiang Soo, which have a milled edge, otherwise

only met with in the silver issues. These are the only specimens in copper that I have been able to find with this peculiarity. Another piece in my collection with a milled edge can hardly be taken into consideration, since it is only an imitation, in copper, of a silver piece for the province of Kiang Nan, which does not appear to have even been plated, although it bears the value of 1 Mace and 41 candareens !

The 2 cash pieces seem only to have been issued for the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series. I have countermarked for two different localities, but there may be others.

The 1 cash pieces comprise, besides the regular coin for Hu Peh and Pei Yang, a third series, adapted to various localities by means of an incused countermark in the centre. I have only come across two different of these.

With but few exceptions, the value in English is found, in all the denominations, at the bottom or lower part of the obverse in the Regular Series. None of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo issues have the value written in a foreign language.

Letters and numerals are both indiscriminately employed for stating the value. A coin for An Hwei even goes so far as to employ both, since the die, as will be plainly seen in Fig. 11, was evidently altered from one to the other.

The value in Chinese, in both the Regular and the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, occupy a similar position on the reverse. Sometimes it is expressed by only two characters, such as "Value 10," while in others (Kwang Tung) the inscription is extended to seven characters, in which case it is in relation to a higher unit.

SIZE:

It is a remarkable fact that, notwithstanding the many mints that have been at work, the size of these coins vary but little. Where China is concerned and the rapacity of the Viceroys is taken into consideration, this is indeed a matter for surprise.

The 20 cash pieces vary from 31½ millimetres in the Regular Series for each province to 34 millimetres in the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series.

The 10 cash pieces fluctuate between 28 and 29½ millimetres, the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series here again showing the greatest diameters.

The 5 cash pieces are found between 23 and 24 millimetres; while the 2 cash, limited only to the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, are invariably some 17 millimetres in diameter.

The modest 1 cash brass pieces, since I have as yet only seen one specimen in copper, vary but little in diameter from the 2 cash, although, it is true, they are not as thick.

DESIGN:

Most of the coins follow a more or less uniform dragon design, an issue of the 1 cash piece being the exception. The side which bears this design I have termed, for general purposes, the obverse. The dragon is found in several distinct positions, usually surrounded by clouds, wind and sometimes waves. The emblematical Sun or ball of fire is invariably present. Sub-varieties of this design, due to the various positions of this monster, are almost without end.

Although no dragon figures in one issue, that of the 1 cash piece for Pei Yang, it has a pleasing ornamental design.

All the designs, which occupy the field or centre of the coins, are, save in a few instances, surrounded by a dotted circle.

INSCRIPTIONS:

The majority of the coins bear inscriptions in Chinese, Manchu and English, this latter on the obverse, excepting the Che Chiang issue, which has no foreign characters whatever.

In the Regular Series, the name of the province, in English, occupies a semi-circular position above the dragon, while in the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, this appellation appears on the lower part.

In the coins of the Regular Series for the provinces, the reigning title, in Chinese, figures in the field of the reverse, replaced, in the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, by the native characters for this name.

The name of the province, in Manchu, is found on the reverse either above, in the centre or at the sides of the principal Chinese inscriptions in all the issues for both the Regular and Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series. The Manchu characters are employed for no other purpose, as a general rule.

In the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, as well as one of the issues of the 1 cash pieces, the centre of the coin is occupied with a small character, usually incused, representing the province or place for which it is intended to have local circulation. (See "Abbreviated Names.")

In all series, the central Chinese inscription, is in most cases enclosed by a dotted circle, similar to that of the design on the obverse.

DATES:

Certain coins, in particular those of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, bear the date of issue on the reverse. The symbols of the Ten Celestial Stems, in combination with those of the Twelve Branches, are used for such purposes.

As these characters are somewhat puzzling to most persons unaccustomed with Chinese, it may be of interest to affix them in their numerical order, so that their combinations may be better understood when dealing with the dates on the individual coins.

Ten Celestial Stems.

(天 干)

(1) 甲 Chia	(6) 己 Chi
(2) 乙 Yi	(7) 庚 Keng
(3) 丙 Ping	(8) 辛 Hsin
(4) 丁 Ting	(9) 壬 Jen
(5) 戊 Mou	(10) 癸 Kuei

Twelve Branches.

(十 二 支)

(1) 子 Tzu	(7) 午 Wu
(2) 丑 Ch'ou	(8) 未 Wei
(3) 寅 Yin	(9) 申 Shen
(4) 卯 Mao	(10) 酉 Yu
(5) 辰 Shen	(11) 戌 Hsu
(6) 巳 Ssu	(12) 亥 Hai

MISS-STRIKES:

Where such a number of coins have been struck within such a comparatively short period of time, it is but natural that miss-strikes and irregular coins should abound. It is my intention to only deal generally with them, but I may mention that I have seen many hundreds of these defective pieces.

Specimens out of centre, coins struck with double impressions, those with incused design (produced by the planchet being struck before removing the former coin), as well as other freaks, such as those with circular pieces "bitten off," etc., are sometimes met with in circulation. Perfectly blank round planchets, without having the slightest trace of any impressions, have also been found among current coins.

I would like to say a few words on the relative position of the dies when minting. In most cases, if the coins be held by the edges and turned round, it will be noticed that the impressions are regular; that is to say, that the top of the obverse corresponds to the top of the reverse, the dies having been placed ↑ ↑ while striking. But such is not always the case, as will be seen later, on referring to such coins, which I have termed "irregular," this condition being found in more than one issue, both of the Regular and Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series.

In this connection, I cannot refrain from quoting Macdonald's article on "Fixed and Loose Dies in Ancient Coinage," contributed to "Corolla Numismatica":

"To most people the choice between ↑↑ and ↑↓ will seem to be a matter of little moment. There have been those for whom it has proved all too serious. One of the greatest curiosities in the collection of Chinese coins at the British Museum is a copper cash, the dies of which have been adjusted ↑↓. It was struck some twelve years ago in the province of Fu Kien and was shortly afterwards presented to the Museum by Mr. H. B. Morse, who related its history in an interesting letter shown me by Mr. Hill. It is the invariable rule that the dies of Chinese coins should be placed ↑↑. About the end of 1893 or beginning of 1894, the Fu Kien provincial mint, through an oversight, turned out a whole day's issue—stated to be 30,000 cash, value 30 dollars—with the reverse turned upside down. That is to say, the dies had been placed ↑↓. It was very soon discovered that the established practice had been departed from. Consternation reigned supreme. The responsible persons were beheaded forthwith, and the provincial authorities made frantic efforts to call in the whole set by offering one hundred times the face value for every specimen restored to the mint. Under the circumstances it is scarcely surprising that examples of the issue should be exceedingly uncommon."

ABBREVIATED NAMES:

The issues of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series intended for local circulation have a single character in the centre of the coin on the reverse, sometimes in relief, but the more often incused, which represents the province or place, in an abbreviated form, for where they are intended to circulate.

As these characters are somewhat of an enigma, even to Chinese students, I append herewith, for purposes of easy reference and to serve as a quick means of identification, a list of the characters with the full names for which they are an abbreviation, as well as their translations, arranged alphabetically, so as to correspond with the classification of the coins of this series.

(a) No character whatever intended for general circulation.
(b) 皖 for 安徽 (An Hwei)
(c) 浙 " 浙江 (Che Chiang)
(d) 直 " 直隸 (Chih Li)
(e) 閩 " 福建 (Foo Kien)
(f) 奉 " 奉天 (Fung Tien)
(g) 淮 " 河南 (Ho Nan)
(h) 湘 " 湖南 (Hu Nan)
(i) 鄂 " 湖北 (Hu Peh)
(j) 蘇 for 江蘇 (Kiang Soo)
(k) 粵 " 廣東 (KwangTung,or 廣西 (Kwang Si, since both these provinces use this character for their abbreviated form.
(l) 甯 " 南京 (Nan King)
(m) 東 " 山東 (Shang Tung)
(n) 贛 " 雲南 (Yu Nan)

CLASSIFICATION:

In order to systematically arrange the various issues which comprise all the coins dealt with in this article, I have considered it convenient to classify them into two primary divisions:

I. TAI CHING TI KUO SERIES,

comprising all issues of this general series which bear this name, and,

II. REGULAR PROVINCIAL SERIES,

bearing the names and characters of each province, as well as the Kwong Su period.

Those 1 cash pieces having as principal inscription the reigning title, are included in the second of the above divisions.

Each series or division, in its turn, will be alphabetically arranged by provinces or localities. In some cases, where a province is spelt in two different ways, it will be found under the corresponding first letters of each; for instance, Ching Kiang and Tsing Kiang, although the same province will be found under C and T, respectively.

The coins of each province or locality will be numbered, the numeration changing with each province.

I have adopted the above arrangement and separate numeration, instead of numbering consecutively all the coins mentioned in this article, since, this probably being the pioneer work on the subject, will naturally result defective and incomplete, as it is impossible to include in the first undertaking, all the coins either minted or even those put into circulation. As fresh specimens appear, they can be added to each province and relative numbers assigned to them within that province, instead of having to alter the entire enumeration, as would otherwise be the case.

The present arrangement, I hope, will prove sufficient for reference purposes, but also render it convenient for the adding in the future of specimens not mentioned herein, without having to alter the entire classification.

I. TAI CHING TI KUO SERIES.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

The various countermarked issues of this series, together with the different denominations comprised in my collection, will best be understood by the following table:

	Name.	20 cash.	10 cash.	5 cash.	2 cash.
(a)	General use	x	x	x	x
(b)	An Hwei	..	x	..	x
(c)	Che Chiang	x	x	x	..
(d)	Chi Li	..	x	..	..
(e)	Foo Kien	..	x	..	..
(f)	Fung Tien	x	..	..	..
(g)	Ho Nan	..	x	..	..
(h)	Hu Nan	..	x	..	..
(i)	Hu Peh	..	x	x	..
(j)	Kiang Soo	x	x	..	..
(k)	Kwang Tung or Kwang Si	..	x	..	..
(l)	Nan King	..	x	..	..
(m)	Shang Tung	..	x	..	..
(n)	Yu Nan	..	x	..	..
	Totals	4	13	3	2

(a) GENERAL USE.

1. 20 cash. 33 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1. The four characters above mean "Made in the year of Kwong Su."
   Rev. As Fig. 2. The four Chinese characters in the centre read "Tai Ching Copper Coin." The two characters on each side stand for "Board of Revenue Mint." The date (19)06, on each side of the Manchu inscription, is represented by the third character of the Ten Stems, in combination with the seventh of the Twelve Branches. The value is stated below by six characters.

2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 2, but the value is 10 cash, stated below by five characters.

3. 5 cash. 24 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 4. The year (19)05 is represented by the second character of the Ten Stems in combination with the sixth of the Twelve Branches. The value is stated below by five characters.

4. 2 cash. 17 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 5.
Rev. As Fig. 6. The two characters on each side correspond to the year (19)07, represented by the fourth character of the Ten Stems in combination with the eighth of the Twelve Branches. The value is stated below by five characters.

5. 2 cash, as preceding.
Ob. As Fig. 5.
Rev. As Fig. 2, but the value is 2 cash.

6. 2 cash, as preceding, but the date is (19)05.

(b) AN HWEI.

1. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.
Evidently various dies were used for this issue as slight discrepancies are noticed, but which are not worth while recording separately.

2. Same as preceding, but "irregular"; that is, that the dies were placed ↑↓ while striking the coin.

(c) CHE CHIANG.

1. 20 cash. 34 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

2. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

3. 5 cash. 24 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but the value is 5 cash, with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

4. 2 cash. 17 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 5.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but the value is 2 cash, with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

(d) CHI LI.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

(e) FOO KIEN.

1. 10 cash. 30 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

(f) FUNG TIEN.

1. 20 cash. 33½ mm. Yellow brass.
Ob. As Fig. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 3, but the value is 20 cash, with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)05.

(g) HO NAN.

1. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding character in *relief* in the centre and the date is (19)06.
   This coin, together with one for Nan King, are the only two local issues of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo series for which special or separate dies appear to have been made with the central character in relief. It would seem that the same die was used for the various issues by the addition, after minting, of an incused countermark, in the centre, adapting it to the required locality.

(h) HU NAN.

1. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.
2. Same as preceding but 28 mm.
3. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

(i) HU PEH.

1. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but the date is (19)06.
2. As preceding, but, in the design of the Ob., there are hardly any clouds or ornamentation round the dragon.
   This coin, together with one for Nan King, are the only two local issues
3. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3. The date (19) 09 is represented by the second character of the Ten Stems in combination with the tenth of the Twelve Branches.
4. 5 cash. 24 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. Similar to Fig. 1, but with less ornamentation round the dragon, the flames, which come out of the ball of fire, being more in evidence.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but the value is 5 cash, stated below by five characters.
   This is a beautiful coin in every respect.

(j) KIANG SOO.

1. 20 cash. 34 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but the value is 20 cash, with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.
2. Same as preceding, but 33 mm. and yellow brass.
3. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.
4. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

(k) KWANG TUNG OR KWANG SI.

1. 10 cash. 29½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre, and the date is (19)06.
2. Same as preceding, but the date is (19)07.

(l) NAN KING.

1. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding character in *relief* in the centre and the date is (19)06.

2. Same as preceding, but "irregular."
3. Same as No. 1 of this issue, but the corresponding character is by means of a *countermark incused* in the centre and the date is (19)07.
4. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. Similar to Fig. 1, but the dragon is somewhat different, principally in the head.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre.
5. A variety of preceding, the difference being most noticeable in the mouth of the dragon. The date on the Rev. (19)08 is represented by the fifth character of the Ten Stems in combination with the ninth of the Twelve Branches.
6. A variety of preceding. The dragon being more like the No. 4 of this same issue. Evidently various dies were used for the minting of the coins of this issue, as many variations of both the Obverses and Reverses are met with. The above are nevertheless so perfectly different, that they may be considered as entirely distinct coins.
7. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

(m) SHANG TUNG.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3, but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

(n) YU NAN.

1. 10 cash. 29½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 1.
   Rev. As Fig. 3 but with the corresponding countermark incused in the centre and the date is (19)06.

II. REGULAR PROVINCIAL SERIES.

So far I have come across only the following issues of the different provinces mentioned below.

	Name.	20 cash.	10 cash	5 cash.	1 cash.
(a)	An Hwei	x	x	..	..
(b)	Che Chiang	x	x	..	..
(c)	Chin Kiang, see Tsing Kiang	..	x	..	..
(d)	Foo Kien	x	x	x	..
(e)	F. K. Custom House	..	x	..	..
(f)	Fen Tieng, see Fung Tieng	x	x	..	..
(g)	Fung Tien, see Fen Tieng	..	x	..	..
(h)	Ho Nan	..	x	..	..
(i)	Hu Nan	..	x	..	..
(j)	Hu Peh	..	x	..	x
(k)	Hu Poo	x	x	x	..
(l)	Kiang See, see Kiang Si	..	x	..	..
(m)	Kiang Si, see Kiang See	..	x	..	..
(n)	Kiang Nan	..	x	..	..
(o)	Kiang Soo	x	x	x	..
(p)	Kirin	x	x	..	..
(q)	Kwang Tung	..	x	..	..
(r)	Pei Yang	x	x	..	x
(s)	Shang Tung	..	x	..	..
(t)	Tsing Kiang, see Chin Kiang	..	x	..	..
(u)	Miscellaneous	..	..	..	x
	Totals	8	20	3	3

AN-HWEI.

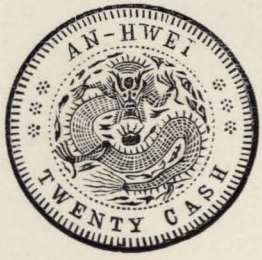


Fig. 7

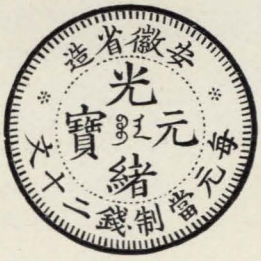


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

(a) AN HWEI.

1. 20 cash. 33mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 7.
   Rev. As Fig. 8. The four Chinese characters above, as well as the two Manchu in the centre, signify "An Hwei Mint." The value is stated below by eight characters. The main inscription in the field, composed of four characters, mean "Original coin of the Kwong Su period."

As the above explanatory description holds good for most of the coins following, it will not be necessary to repeat it in each case.

2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 7, but the value is TEN CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 8, but with the corresponding value stated below by seven characters.

3. Same as preceding, but the N's are written "N."

4. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. Similar to Fig. 7, but the value is TEN CASH and the dragon and ornamentation slightly different. The three stars on each side are more separated.
   Rev. As Fig. 8, but with the corresponding value stated below by seven characters.

5. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 9.
   Rev. As Fig. 10.

6. Same as preceding, but the four characters in the field of the Rev. are a little smaller, while the rosette in the centre is larger.

7. Same as preceding, but the rosette in the centre is larger and the value is stated below by five characters.

8. Same as preceding, but the rosette in the centre is smaller.

9. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

10. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 11.
    Rev. As Fig. 10, but the value is stated below by five characters.
    The Obverse of this coin is most remarkable in that the value written in English was evidently altered from numerals to letters, or vice versa, resulting both ways.

11. Similar to preceding, but without any value on the Ob.

12. Same as preceding, but with the Rev. as Fig. 10.
    It will be noted that in most of the above 10 cash pieces the value in English is omitted altogether, while the same in Chinese is variously expressed by either seven, five or two characters.

CHE-CHIANG.



Fig. 12

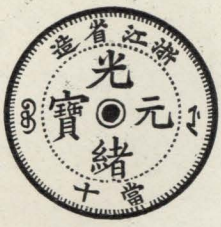


Fig. 13

(b) CHE CHIANG.

1. 20 cash. 33 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 12.
   Rev. As Fig. 13, but the value is 20 cash, stated below by three characters. A rosette occupies the centre in place of the ball and circle. The two Manchu characters on each side, as well as the four Chinese above, stand for "Che Chiang Mint."

2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 12.
   Rev. As Fig. 13.
3. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. and Rev., as preceding, but on the Rev. a rosette occupies the centre instead of the ball and circle.
4. Same as preceding, but of yellow brass.
5. Same as No. 3, but the Manchu character on the left side of the Rev. is smaller and written differently.
6. Same as No. 3, but "irregular."
7. Same as No. 4, but the value on the Rev. is stated below by four characters.

CHING-KIANG



Fig. 14

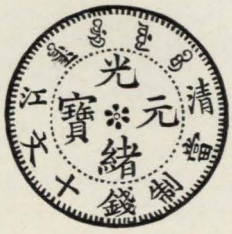


Fig. 15

(c) CHIN KIANG.

1. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 14.
   Rev. As Fig. 15.
   This coin has a milled edge.
2. Same as preceding, but 28 mm. while the characters round the Rev. are not so separated and somewhat smaller, particularly the two in Chinese expressing Che Chiang (Mint).
3. Same as preceding, but the dotted circle on the Rev. is nearly half the diameter and the four characters in the field are smaller. The rosette in the centre is missing altogether.

For the other coins issued for this same province, see Tsing Kiang.

FOO-KIEN.



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

(d) FOO KIEN.

1. 20 cash. 32 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 16.
   Rev. As Fig. 17.
2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 16, but the value is 10 CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 17, but with the corresponding value stated below by six characters.

3. Similar to preceding, but the ornamentation round the dragon is more scanty.

4. 5 cash. 22 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. Similar to Fig. 15, but the value is 5 CASH. The ornamentation is more like No. 3.
   Rev. As Fig. 17, but with the corresponding value stated below by six characters.

F. K. CUSTOM HOUSE.



Fig. 18



Fig. 19

(e) F. K. CUSTOM HOUSE.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 18.
   Rev. As Fig. 19.

2. Same as preceding, but the two Chinese characters on each side of the Rev. (which mean "Custom House") are more than double the size.

"F. K." stand for Foo Kien.

(f) FEN TIEN.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Yellow brass.
   Ob. Similar to Fig. 20, but with FEN TIEN PROVINCE.
   Rev. As Fig. 21, but the date is (19)03, represented by the tenth character of the Ten Stems (Decenary Cycle) in combination with the fourth of the Twelve Branches. (Duodenary Cycle.)
   This coin belongs to Fung Tien Province, the spelling being changed in the subsequent issues, as will be seen below.

FUNG-TIEN.



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

(g) FUNG TIEN.

1. 20 cash. 32 mm. Yellow brass.
   Ob. As Fig. 20, but the value is TWENTY CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 21, but with the corresponding value stated below by five characters. The figure 20 is here written in an abbreviated form.

2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Yellow brass.
   Ob. As Fig. 20.
   Rev. As Fig. 21. The Chinese characters on each side stand for the date (19)04, represented by the first character of the Ten Stems in combination with the fifth of the Twelve Branches.

3. Same as preceding, but the date is (19)05, represented by the second character of the Ten Stems in combination with the sixth of the Twelve Branches.

4. Same as preceding, but the date is (19)06, represented by the third character of the Ten Stems in combination with the seventh of the Twelve Branches.

HO–NAN.



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

(h) HO NAN.

1. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 22.
   Rev. As Fig. 23.
2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 24.
   Rev. Similar to Fig. 23, but the characters in the field and surrounding the coin are somewhat smaller and written slightly different. The symbol of the male and female principle, in the centre, is arranged differently.

HU–NAN.



Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig 28



Fig. 29

(i) HU NAN.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 25.
   Rev. As Fig. 26. The two characters on each side together with the two below, make up the value inscription. The two Manchu characters in the centre mean "Hu Nan Mint."
2. Same as preceding, but the four characters in the field of the Rev. are larger, while those round the coin are smaller.
3. Same as preceding, but "irregular."
4. Same as No. 2, but with the following differences on the Rev.—The two Manchu characters have been removed to each side of the coin, while the centre is taken up by a rosette. The dotted circle is larger, while the characters surrounding the coin are smaller. The value is stated below by four characters.

5. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 27.
   Rev. As that of No. 4, but the characters and rosette are larger and the value is stated below by two characters.

6. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 28.
   Rev. As Fig. 26, but the characters round the coin are a little smaller.

7. Same as preceding, but the Rev. as in that of No. 5.

8. Same as preceding, but HU-NAN on the Ob. is not so separated and there are some other minor differences in the design of the dragon.

9. 10 cash. 29 mm. Yellow brass.
   Ob. As Fig. 29.
   Rev. Similar to Fig. 26, but the two Manchu characters in the centre have changed places. The two characters on each side, together with the three below, make up the value inscription.

   This is a perfect coin. The reading of the Manchu characters in the centre of the Rev., from left to right, meaning "Hu Nan Mint," is worthy of special notice.

   As will be seen above, the denominations in Chinese of some of the coins have been divided, that is to say, that the full inscription is formed by the two characters on each side of the coin, in conjunction with the ones below, sometimes two, and others, three characters. This peculiar arrangement does not seem to have been adopted by any other province.

HU-PEH.



Fig. 30



Fig. 31



Fig. 32



Fig. 33



Fig. 34



Fig. 35



Fig. 36

(j) HU PEH.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 30.
   Rev. As Fig. 31.

2. Same as preceding, but the entire inscription surrounding the coin on the Rev. is bigger, particularly the two Manchu characters. The rosette in the centre is composed of six dots.

3. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 32.
   Rev. As that of No. 2.

4. Same as preceding, but "irregular."
5. Same as No. 3, but the characters on Rev. are larger and slightly differently written.
6. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 32. Rev. As Fig. 33.
7. Same as preceding, but "HU-PEH PHOVINCE" on Ob. Very inferior workmanship.
8. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 34.
   Rev. As Fig. 31, but the rosette in the centre is made up of six ovals, with a dot in the middle.
9. Same as preceding, but "irregular."
10. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 35.
    Rev. As that of No. 8.
11. 1 cash. 16½ mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 36.
    Rev. As that of No. 8, but the value is 1 cash, stated below by two characters.

HU POO.



Fig. 37

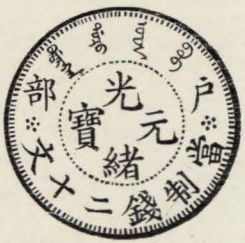


Fig. 38

(k) HU POO.

1. 20 cash. 32 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 37. Rev. As Fig. 38.
2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 37, but without the dotted circle and the value is TEN CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 38, but with the corresponding value stated below by five characters. The two stars are each made up of five pointed lines.
3. Same as preceding, but the two stars on Ob. are each composed of eight pointed lines, while those on Rev. are as in Fig. 31.
4. 5 cash. 23 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 37, but FIVE CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 38, but with the corresponding value stated below by five characters.

KIANG-SEE.



Fig. 39



Fig. 40



Fig. 41

(l) KIANG SEE.

1. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 39. Rev. As Fig. 40.

2. Same as preceding, but the rosette in the centre is much larger and with a dot in the middle.

3. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 39.
Rev. As Fig. 45. The two Chinese characters on each side mean "Treasury Weight."

10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 41.
4. Rev. As that of No. 2, but the rosette is smaller and the characters are written slightly differently.

5. Same as preceding, but with the Rev. like that of No. 2. For the remaining coins of this province, see Kiang Si.

KIANG–SI.



Fig. 42



Fig. 43



Fig. 44



Fig. 45

(m) KIANG SI.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 41, but KIANG SI.
Rev. As Fig. 40, but the rosette in the centre is larger and with a dot in the middle.

2. Same as preceding, but the rosette is still larger.

3. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
Ob. As that of No. 1.
Rev. As Fig. 45. The two Chinese characters on each side mean "Treasury Weight."

4. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 42.
Rev. As Fig. 40.

5. Same as preceding, but the rosette as in No. 1.

6. Same as preceding, but the rosette as in No. 2.
There were evidently still other dies used for the above coins, as they show discrepancies, but the differencies are so slight that they are not worth while recording separately.

7. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
Ob. As Fig. 42.
Rev. As Fig. 45.

8. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 43.
   Rev. As that of No. 2.

9. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

10. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 44.
    Rev. As that of No. 1.
    For the other coins of this province, see Kiang See.

KIANG–NAN.



Fig. 46



Fig. 47



Fig. 48

(n) KIANG NAN.

1. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 46.
   Rev. As Fig. 47.

2. Same as preceding, but the two stars on the Rev. are replaced by the Chinese in scription indicating the year (19)02, represented by the ninth character of the Ten Stems in combination with the third of the Twelve Branches.

3. Same as preceding, but the date is (19)03. The characters on the Rev. are bigger, specially the two Manchu, in the centre.

4. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

5. Same as No. 3, but the date is (19)04.

6. Same as preceding, but the date is (19)05.
   There are various different varieties of the Ob. of Nos. 2 to 7, but of such minuteness that they hardly merit special mention.

7. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 46.
   Rev. As Fig. 46.
   This is the only coin that I have seen struck with two Obverses, that is to say, the design being similar on both sides. This is a beautiful specimen, evidently struck on a polished planchet, and giving it the appearance of a proof.
   Most coins bearing the design of Fig. 46 appear to have been struck on polished planchets, giving them a most finished appearance.

8. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 48.
   Rev. Similar to Fig. 47. but with the following differences:—the two Manchu characters in the centre are replaced by a rosette: the value is stated below by four characters: the stars dividing the surrounding inscription are omitted, but the two Chinese characters indicating the year (19)05 are inserted in a similar manner and position as those in Fig. 21.
   It will be noticed in this last coin, that the two Manchu characters reading "Kiang Nan Mint" are placed on the Ob. instead of the Rev., as is usual, this being probably the only instance where such is the case.

KIANG-SOO.



Fig. 49



Fig. 50



Fig. 51

(o) KIANG SOO.

1. 20 cash. 34 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 46, but KIANG-SOO and TWENTY CASH. The stars on each side are more oblong in shape.
   Rev. As Fig. 49, but with the corresponding value stated below by seven characters.

2. Same as preceding, but of yellow brass.

3. 10 cash. 29 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 46, but KIANG-SOO.
   Rev. As Fig. 49.

4. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

5. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As that of No. 3, but the letters in the English inscription are larger.
   Rev. As Fig. 49, but with the addition of the two characters representing the year (19)05, arranged as in Fig. 4.

6. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

7. Same as No. 5, but the letters in the English inscription, on the Ob., as well as the two stars, are smaller.

8. Same as No. 3, but the rosette in the centre is replaced by the two Manchu characters meaning "Kiang Soo Mint."

9. Same as preceding, but with two stars added, which divide the upper and lower Chinese inscriptions on Rev.

10. Same as No. 8, but with the date (19)02, added to Rev.

11. Same as preceding, but the date is (19)03.

Nos. 8 to 11 are commonly seen with more or less milled edges.

12. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 50.
    Rev. As Fig. 49, but the rosette is larger and the value is stated below by two characters.

13. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

14. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 46, but KIANG-SOO.
    Rev. As Fig. 47.
    I cannot account for the above coin having the Ob. of one province (Kiang Soo) and the Rev. of another (Kiang Nan). How the die of one mint was employed on the same coin together with another of a different mint, resulting in a "mule," certainly needs some explanation, which I am unable to supply at the present moment.

15. 5 cash. 23½ mm. Red copper.
    Ob. As Fig. 51.
    Rev. As that of No. 8, but with the corresponding value stated below by seven characters.
    This coin appears to have a milled edge of sorts. All the specimens I have so far seen have the "five" wrongly spelt with an "E," at the commencement of the word, instead of an "F."

KIRIN.



Fig. 52



Fig 53

(p) KIRIN.

1. 20 cash. 33 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 52, but 20 CASHES.
   Rev. As Fig. 53, but with the corresponding value stated below by eight characters.
2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 52.
   Rev. As Fig. 53.

I have in my collection some ten varieties of the 10 cashes, all differing slightly on the Ob., principally in the formation of the letters in the English inscriptions, the "R" in Kirin, in particular, appears to have been a stumbling block to the engraver, as no two are alike. The differences are so minute, that this observation will be considered sufficient for the purpose.

KWANG-TUNG.



Fig. 54



Fig. 55

(q) KWANG TUNG.

1. 1 cent. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 54.
   Rev. As Fig. 55.
2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 54, but TEN CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 55, but the corresponding value is stated below by seven characters.

There is an unimportant variety of this last piece, the placing of the charac. ters on Rev., being slightly different.

The above coins are beautiful specimens, probably the best executed in the entire series.

PEI YANG.



Fig. 56



Fig. 57



Fig. 58



Fig. 64



Fig. 65

(r) PEI YANG.

1. 20 cash. 31½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 56, but TWENTY CASH.
   Rev. As Fig. 57, but with the corresponding value stated below by six characters.

2. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 56.
   Rev. As Fig. 57.
   There are several unimportant varieties of this coin, the principal differences being in the design of the Ob.

3. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 58.
   Rev. As Fig. 57.

4. 1 cash. 15½ mm. Yellow brass.
   Ob. As Fig. 64.
   Rev. As Fig. 65. The two characters on each side mean "Pei Yang." The value is stated by the remaining four characters.

SHANG-TUNG.



Fig. 59



Fig. 60



Fig. 61

(s) SHANG TUNG.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 59.
   Rev. As Fig. 60.

2. Same as preceding, but of yellow brass and 29 mm.
3. Same as preceding, but "irregular."

   While the specimen struck in copper is a perfect coin, the two in brass are of very inferior workmanship.
4. 10 cash. 28½ mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 59.
   Rev. As Fig. 61.

TSING–KIANG.



Fig. 62



Fig. 63

(t) TSING KIANG.

1. 10 cash. 28 mm. Red copper.
   Ob. As Fig. 62.
   Rev. As Fig. 63.
2. Same as preceding, but the dotted circle on the Rev. is larger, while the characters surrounding the coin are smaller. A rosette is added to the centre.
3. Same as preceding, but "irregular."
4. Same as No. 2, but the rosette in the centre is bigger and the characters round the coin are larger, especially the two meaning "Tsing Kiang."

   For the other coins of this province, see Chin Kiang.

(u) MISCELLANEOUS.



Fig 66



Fig. 67

1. 1 cash. 17 mm. Yellow brass.
   Ob. As Fig. 66.
   Rev. As Fig. 67. The two characters above mean "Kwong Su" (period) the two below express the value, while the two on each side indicate the year (19)08, represented by the fifth character of the Ten Stems in combination with the ninth of the Twelve Branches. The incused character in the centre stands for Nan King, in an abbreviated form.
2. Same as preceding, but with the incused countermark in the centre for Hu Peh.

GLOSSARY.

In order to make these Notes as instructive as possible, I append an abridged glossary and translation of all the Chinese characters found on the coins mentioned in this work.

(Note.—The inscriptions are written from left to right so as to adapt them to the English style of composition, while on the coins themselves they are found inversely, that is, from right to left.)

MAIN INSCRIPTIONS, inscribed in the field of the Rev.

大清銅幣 "Tai Ching Ti Kuo Copper Coin" found on all the issues of the coins of the General Series bearing this name.

光緒元寶 "Original Coin of the Kwong Su Period" seen on all the issues of the Regular Provincial Series, with the exceptions below.

光緒通寶 "Currency of the Kwong Su Period" met with only in the 1 cash piece for Hu Peh.

Note.—The Miscellaneous 1 cash pieces have the above first two characters only. (Kwong Su).

PROVINCES and other localities, inscribed either above or on each side of the Rev.

The following will be found on each side of the Rev. :—

戶部 "Board of Revenue," in all the coins of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, as well as in those of the Hu Poo Regular Provincial issue.

淸江 "Ching Kiang" (or Tsing Kiang).

北洋 "Pei Yang."

The following will be found round the top part of the Rev. :—

安徽省造 "Issued for the Province of An Hwei."
浙江省造 "Issued for the Province of Che Chiang."
奉天省造 "Issued for the Province of Fung Tien" (or Feng Tien).
河南省造 "Issued for the Province of Ho Nan."
湖南省造 "Issued for the Province of Hu Nan."
湖北省造 "Issued for the Province of Hu Peh."
江西省造 "Issued for the Province of Kiang See" (or Kiang Si).
江南省造 "Issued for the Province of Kiang Nan."
江蘇省造 "Issued for the Province of Kiang Soo."
吉林省造 "Issued for the Province of Kirin."
廣東省造 "Issued for the Province of Kwang Tung."
福建官局造 "Issued by the Government Office of Foo Kien."

The following will be found both ways, that is, in some cases round the top part of the Rev., while in others, on each side of the Rev.

山東省造 "Issued for the Province of Shang Tung."

NOTE.—Where the Chinese characters indicating the mint or locality are found on each side of the Rev., the top part is taken up by a Manchu inscription.

It is unnecessary to again repeat the symbols and meanings of the countermarks in the centre of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo issues indicating the locality, as this subject has already been fully dealt with in the early part of these Notes.

VALUE INSCRIPTIONS, usually found round the top part of the Rev., unless otherwise stated.

The following are found on the 20 cash pieces:

當制錢二十文 "This coin is regulated to the value of 20 cash," on the coins of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, as well as those for Hu Poo and Pei Yang provincial issues.

每元當制錢二十文 "In each yuan, this coin is regulated to the value of 20 cash," on the coins of An Hwei and Kiang Soo provincial issues.

當二十 "Value 20," on the coins of Che Chiang provincial issue.

每枚當制錢二十文 "Each one of this coin is regulated to the value of 20 cash," on the coins of Foo Kien provincial and F. K. Custom House issues.

當制錢廿文 "This coin is regulated to the value of 20 cash," on the coins of Fung Tien provisional issues. The character for "20" is here abbreviated.

每元當制錢二十箇 "In each yuan, this coin is regulated to the value of 20 pieces," on the coins of Kirin provincial issue.

The following are found on the 10 cash pieces:—

當制錢十文 "This coin is regulated to 10 cash," on the coins of Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, as well as those for Hu Poo and Pei Yang provincial issues.

每元當制錢十文 "In each yuan, this coin is regulated to the value of 10 cash," on the coins of An Hwei, Kiang Nan, Kiang Soo, Shang Tung and Kwang Tung provincial issues.

當十 "Value 10," on the coins of An Hwei, Che Chiang, Hu Nan, Hu Peh, Kiang Si and Kiang Soo provincial issues.

黃銅當十 "Yellow copper, value 10," on coins of Che Chiang provincial issue.

每枚當錢十文 "Each one of this coin is regulated to the value of 10 cash," on the coins of Foo Kien provincial and F. K. Custom House issues.

當十銅元 "Value 10, copper yuan," on the coins of Hu Nan provincial issue. The first character is on the right and the second on the left side of the Rev., while the remaining two are round the bottom part.

當錢十文 "Coin valued at 10 cash," on the coins of Hu Nan provincial issue.

當十黃銅元 "Value 10, yellow copper yuan," on some of the coins of Hu Nan provincial issue. The first character is on the right and the second on the left side of the Rev., while the remaining three characters are round the bottom part.

當十銅元 "Value 10, copper yuan," on the coins of Kiang Nan provincial issue.

每元當制錢十箇 "In each yuan this coin is regulated to the value of 10 pieces," on the coins of Kirin provincial issue.

每百枚換一圓 "One hundred to a dollar," on the coins of Kwang Tung provincial issue (cent). This inscription is the same as on the present copper sen issues of Japan.

The following are found on the 5 cash pieces:—

當制錢五文 "This coin is regulated to the value of 5 cash," on the coins of Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series, as well as those of Hu Poo provincial issue.

每枚當錢五文 "Each one of this coin is regulated to the value of 5 cash," on the coins of Foo Kien issue.

每元當制錢五文 "In each yuan, this coin is regulated to the value of 5 cash," on the coins of Kiang Soo provincial issue.

The following are found on the 2 cash pieces:—

當制錢二文 "This coin is regulated to the value of 2 cash," on the coins of the Tai Ching Ti Kuo Series.

The following are found on the 1 cash pieces:—

一文 "1 cash, on the coins of the Miscellaneous issue.
零用一文 "For use as 01 cash," on the coins of Pei Yang provisional issue. It is curious to note the zero or decimal point before the 1.

NOTE.—The "yuan" above mentioned corresponds to the silver or Mexican dollar in value.

DATES, inscribed on each side, dividing the top and bottom inscriptions round the Rev.

壬寅	"(19)02"	丙午	"(19)06"
癸卯	"(19)03"	丁未	"(19)07"
甲辰	"(19)04"	戊申	"(19)08"
乙巳	"(19)05"	己酉	"(19)09"

Miscellaneous inscriptions, found on each side of the Rev.

閩關 "Custom House," on the coins of F. K. Custom House issue.
庫平 "Treasury Weight," on the coins of Kiang Si provincial issue.

I can not terminate these Notes without expressing my great indebtedness to Mr. Howland Wood, who has kindly and ably corrected the proofs as well as seeing these articles through the press. His expert knowledge of Far Eastern numismatics has been of invaluable help: without such aid, it would have been impossible for me, at such a great distance, to have undertaken the publication of these Notes, in a satisfactory manner.

Yokohama.